

3/26/12

Hello, my name is Joe Dan Manis. I grew up in Madisonville, Tennessee. At an early age Tennessee walking horse shows were a large part of our recreation. Every Saturday night all of my brothers and sister looked forward to the horse show. Probably not to watch the horses as much as to see all of our friends that were always there. This environment of the horse show family has always been a large part of positive social growth for our children.

Over the years since 1970, I have seen our horses perform without most of the old methods that were considered acceptable at the time. Today we show horses with very little hair loss or calluses where the 6 ounce chain is worn. So based on where we have come in the last 40 years, I believe we have arrived. We should focus on monitoring our success that I believe we have achieved.

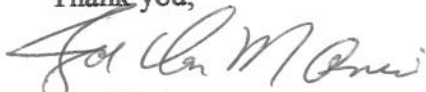
As in any competitive event, a few persons may push the envelope to gain a competitive advantage. There is no way to be 100% in anything even our government. Almost daily, we read of corruption in our system and within each level of government from the country to the capital. It would be unwise to simply say we should stop supporting our government due to a few corrupt and dishonest politicians – just as wrong as it would be to continue with the increased amount of rules and monitoring because of a few trainers and owners that push the envelope.

I think we have arrived at a workable point and should focus on monitoring where we have gotten to over the last 40 years. Our “big lick” Tennessee Walkers show well into their teens as no other performance breed does. Any marks left from our 6 ounce chains are not as apparent as other breeds that use spats or boots when they run or jump.

I feel there should be more effort to look at other areas of animal protection such as, just in our county alone within the last 3 months two cases of animal cruelty have been reported. One where a horse cross tied to a tree and left to starve and die, which happened. The other due to neglected underfed animals in which one horse had to be put down and the others rescued. So far the person responsible for the death has not been found. There is no ongoing effort to uncover the owner of this most inhuman act. Surely these animals deserve more investigation to stop such atrocities.

In closing, I say, we have come far, to expect never to have a violator would be like never having a corrupt and dishonest politician. So let's focus on monitoring our breed and put some efforts toward seeking just treatment in other areas of horse protection.

Thank you,


Joe Manis